

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL  
(AGIC)

The next Board meeting will be held in Phoenix on Thursday, September 1, 1994.

CALL TO ORDER - The Executive Management Board of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) met on Thursday, July 7, 1994 in the University Union at Arizona State University, in Flagstaff, Arizona. The meeting was convened at 1:32 p.m. by Seth Franzman, President of AGIC's Executive Management Board.

Mr. Franzman asked that everyone introduce themselves and invited Michael Collins, AGIC's new intern, to share some information about himself. Noting that the number of Board members and substitutes present did not constitute a quorum, Mr. Franzman said any votes taken during the meeting would be considered advisory and not binding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Lynn Larson seconded a motion from Sally Lanier in favor of approving the minutes from the May 5, 1994 meeting. General concurrence was offered by everyone else in attendance.

BUDGET - Copies of the new AGIC Budget Summary were provided. Ms. Larson said membership contributions seemed to be coming in nicely and thanked those who had given extra. She also announced that the next issue of the AGIC Newsletter, the first to contain advertisements, was almost ready for distribution to the expanded list of over 2,000 recipients. She said the associated advertising revenue should offset the cost estimate shown in the Budget Summary for the June 1994 issue, thereby freeing up some money for other AGIC projects.

In response to a question from Sally Lanier, Ms. Larson confirmed that some of the proceeds from the MAGIC '93 conference had been set aside for the next AGIC conference and noted that the amount should probably be shown on future budget summaries.

STRATEGIC PLAN - Having been unable to attend for quite some time, Chris English was coaxed into sharing the reason for his absence: 12 days in the hospital with pneumonia, followed by a prescribed rest/recovery period with friends in Hawaii.

Mr. English said that he was pleased with how the meeting restructuring appeared to be shaping up and expressed appreciation for the presentations given during the Techno-lunch. He suggested that the Board consider meeting in Window Rock sometime and invited everyone to provide feedback and suggestions to him or to any of the other Strategic Planning Committee members.

Administrative & Legal - For the benefit of new members and visitors, Lynn Larson summarized some of the major issues being tackled by the Administrative and Legal subcommittee: barriers to cooperation between different levels of government, inconsistencies in pricing policies, and lack of a standard funding source for data development. Under current statutes, agencies can charge for development costs if data is being provided for commercial use. Pricing structures, however, vary significantly. The subcommittee intends to look at what is being done in Wisconsin and other states as well as within Arizona.

A demonstration, using sample applications from GIS organizations all around the state, has been assembled for use in explaining to non-technical staff what GIS is and how it can help them. The presentation lasts two and one-half hours. Ms. Larson said the demonstration was very well received by the 12 budget analysts and other executives who had seen it so far. Plans call for holding a hearing next with the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), to be followed by the State Legislature. By explaining the costs and benefits of GIS in this way, organizers hope to persuade members of the Legislature to allocate funding for the State Cartographer position. Then next year, using the job descriptions that were prepared two or three years ago, AGIC can, hopefully, secure funding for clerical support and activate the State Cartographer's Office.

Ms. Larson indicated that the Arizona State Land Department, through the Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS), will also continue to take advantage of any opportunities to promote GIS technology by providing GIS materials to top-level decision makers, as was done for a study of potential prison sites. The overall strategy is to approach the task of gaining high-level exposure for GIS from every angle possible and build on the foundation that has already been laid.

Data Resources - Gary Irish said the Data Resources subcommittee is responsible for

coordinating the development of key spatial data sets for Arizona. He found reassurance in the fact that results from recent surveys of spatial data needs across the country reflect essentially the same priorities as were assigned by the Data Resources subcommittee for Arizona's spatial data.

Because of the magnitude of some of Arizona's key data sets, thematic working groups have been, or are being, organized. Representation is as diverse as possible and includes individuals from both the public and private sectors. The subcommittee's main function is to provide guidance to the working groups. Written instructions are being developed to provide a standard format for the working groups to use in reporting current situation analyses, specific recommendations, and other information about their data sets. The subcommittee is also trying to develop a generic spatial data model and standardized terminology to be used by each group and is reviewing the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards. Members may need to look at existing state and local standards as well.

Participants in the Geodetic Control working group, which was launched first, quickly discovered that their theme was much more complex than originally suspected. They have been meeting almost monthly for the last eight to nine months. The Hydrography group is currently working on an interim project, involving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Reach File 3 data. Transportation is the only major theme for which no working group has yet been formed.

In response to questions regarding metadata standards, Steve Foley confirmed that an executive order had recently been signed to proceed with developing federal standards, and Mr. Irish said vendors would probably be developing software tools to fulfill such requirements.

Education - Chris English provided an update on surveys being conducted by the Education subcommittee. He said very few people responded to the salary survey, which was mailed out last year. Even after Bill O'Sullivan-Kachel called several major sites, only two additional responses were received. Mr. English urged everyone to help in this effort. The intention is not to reveal individual responses but to summarize what pay ranges a prospective employee might expect to find for typical positions in the GIS field.

The education survey met a similar fate. The Education subcommittee originally agreed to create a data base of GIS education available in Arizona. Not enough data was collected through the survey, however; so Don McTaggart will, instead, report in an upcoming issue of the AGIC Newsletter the information that was received.

The personnel survey fared much better. Copies were distributed at four different gatherings. About 100 surveys were completed and returned. From the information accumulated, the subcommittee expects to be able to extrapolate existing and projected personnel needs in Arizona.

Information Exchange - Sally Lanier said that, with the exception of Dale Steele's work on the AGIC Newsletter, conference planning has been the primary activity for the Information Exchange subcommittee. Last year AGIC presented its first annual conference, MAGIC '93. This year, instead of offering MAGIC '94, AGIC is co-hosting the GIS/LIS conference, a very large, national conference being held in Phoenix in October. Ms. Lanier said participation in GIS/LIS represents a tremendous opportunity for both AGIC as a whole and its members. It should be an excellent sharing and learning experience. In addition, members of the GIS user community will receive the same discount rate as members of the other host organizations, and AGIC will receive a portion of the proceeds for each person who marks the AGIC membership status box on the registration form.

During this year's GIS/LIS conference, AGIC will host a one-day track of sessions concentrating on issues of local interest. The subcommittee received many excellent abstracts. Those that could not be accommodated in the Arizona track were forwarded to the overall conference planning committee to be considered for use in the general sessions. A technical tour display, either at ALRIS or at Phoenix City Hall, might also be offered. [Since the July Board meeting, the display has been approved. It will be set up at Phoenix City Hall.] Everyone was encouraged to read the next AGIC Newsletter for more information on the GIS/LIS conference.

Ms. Lanier distributed copies of a GIS calendar proposal. To illustrate the basic format being considered, she also circulated some calendars that Bill O'Sullivan-Kachel, of ALRIS, had previously created using GIS. She said the earlier calendars were very well received and were usually displayed in prominent places. Consequently, supporters

propose producing similar calendars for 1995, featuring applications from both governmental and private agencies in Arizona. Preliminary plans call for distributing the calendars at the GIS/LIS conference, giving some to those participating in the project, and, perhaps, selling some. Collecting \$700 from each organization whose application is selected for publication in a 12-month calendar would generate \$8,400, almost enough money to print 5,000 calendars at a cost of \$1.73 each. Ms. Lanier suggested, however, that an additional contribution of \$1,000 to \$2,000 from AGIC would ensure a more adequate supply. Given the large number of attendees expected at the GIS/LIS conference and the length of time calendars typically remain on display, the project would provide excellent visibility, both for participants and for GIS in general.

Much discussion followed regarding details of the project. Suggestions included producing a single-sheet calendar (instead of printing one month per page), reducing the quantity, adding a renewal/order form, selling copies through a conference booth, and selling advertising space in the calendar. Dale Steele noted that some printers might not be able to print very large sheets. Others pointed out that, even disregarding potential sales opportunities, more than 5,000 calendars would be required to cover the 4,000 attendees projected for this year's conference (based on an actual attendance of 3,200 to 3,300 last year, in Minnesota) plus the proposed number of copies for project participants. Consequently, the first two ideas were laid aside, but the other suggestions were noted as possibilities. Bill Timmins, of the GIS Training and Applications Center (GTAC), lauded the renewal/order form, proposed by Alan Lew, as an excellent instrument for gauging interest next year. He also provided reassurance that most vendors would view expenditures for displays and advertisements in the calendar as a very worthwhile investment, especially considering the amount of exposure to be gained.

Seth Franzman requested an advisory vote on making \$2,000 available for the purpose of creating calendars consistent with the details stated in the handout. The results were unanimous, with no one objecting. Therefore, Sally Lanier was advised that, although an official vote must be taken at the next Board meeting, it should be reasonably safe to proceed.

Technology - No update was available for the Technology subcommittee.

GIS/LIS - Sally Lanier said most GIS/LIS issues had already been covered in conjunction with

the Information Exchange subcommittee report. She did indicate, however, that a preliminary program should be in the mail sometime in July. She also confirmed that conference speakers must register, as with most conferences. Any speaker who has a problem with the cost was advised to contact Ms. Lanier, at (602) 789-3609, for guidance/assistance. Seth Franzman added a reminder to take advantage of the reduced fee and ensure proper credit for AGIC by checking the AGIC membership box, regardless of any other organizational affiliation.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Mr. Franzman asked for an expression of appreciation for Sally Lanier's work on conference planning and for Dale Steele's work on the AGIC Newsletter. Each was offered a round of applause.

STATEWIDE SATELLITE IMAGERY PURCHASE - Gary Irish reported that the Thematic Mapper data purchase organized by the Data Resources subcommittee was basically complete. He said he was making one last round of telephone calls to ensure that the ten groups participating in the effort are happy with what they received. Steve Foley commented that the U.S. Forest Service was already using some of the data in current fire fighting efforts, a fact that was acknowledged as very positive feedback.

NSGIC REPRESENTATION - Seth Franzman indicated that both he and Gary Irish attended last year's National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) meeting, in Williamsburg, Virginia. He represented AGIC, and Mr. Irish went on behalf of the Arizona State Land Department. NSGIC's annual meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn what other states are doing and gain an overall perspective with respect to GIS. Therefore, Mr. Franzman strongly suggested that AGIC send someone again this year. The meeting is scheduled for October 15 through 17. Traditionally AGIC has sent the incoming President of its Executive Management Board, making Chris English a logical choice.

Lynn Larson noted that reservations will probably need to be made before the next AGIC Board meeting. She offered to have the State Land Department cover the costs for AGIC with the understanding that the agency is to be reimbursed if, in a subsequent meeting, the Board officially approves sending someone. Having acknowledged this generous offer, Seth

Franzman entertained a motion from Sally Lanier that AGIC designate Chris English as its representative to the 1994 NSGIC conference and cover his costs. Wayne Hood seconded the motion, and everyone else expressed concurrence.

PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Mr. Franzman reminded everyone that AGIC officers generally serve October 1 through September 30. The current Vice President automatically moves to the position of President. Therefore, only a Vice President and a Secretary need to be elected for the upcoming year. Mr. Franzman indicated that, in accordance with AGIC's Bylaws, he would proceed with appointing a nominating committee to coordinate the election process.

FGDC FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP MEETING REPORT - Gary Irish reported that Nancy Tosta, of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), had requested that AGIC send someone to the FGDC Framework Working Group meeting on June 15, 1994 in Fairfax, Virginia. Given that the Board would not convene again before then, it was decided that Mr. Irish should attend the meeting himself and report back to AGIC. Rita Walton, of Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), was also asked to attend, on behalf of Arizona's local governments. The meeting focused on a review of coordination plans for GIS throughout the United States, but only two states (Arizona and North Carolina) were invited to participate in the review. Therefore, Mr. Irish said AGIC should consider the invitation a real compliment and an indication that Arizona is perceived as being relatively well organized with respect to GIS.

Handouts were distributed, including copies of "The 1994 Plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure" and the executive order mandating the program. Mr. Irish said President Clinton's signing of the executive order is a clear indication of the importance the Federal Government places on these activities. He suggested that it would be a good idea to get the State Cartographer involved in the project, once that position is funded and filled.

It was pointed out that the technology needed for the proposed National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse already exists. ALRIS staff have experimented with the prototype software and verified that it is possible to put metadata out onto a network. Standard access commands will also be available to allow users to cross boundaries between formats. The FGDC plans to enlist support through each state council. Mr. Irish said the overall approach being used

by the federal government seems very similar to AGIC's Strategic Plan. With respect to cadastral and parcel data, however, it appears that the FGDC is only interested in federal lands, which may actually help to make the job easier in the long run. The FGDC wants only core data sets but will probably allow data to be produced by multiple agencies in order to reduce costs and minimize duplication of effort. Standard attributes will be required. There will also be linkages to non-framework attributes. Levels of detail, including scale and intensity, may vary from area to area in accordance with actual needs (e.g., urban versus rural). When requesting data, organizations may ask that only certain attributes be shown or that the data be provided in a more general form. Such options will further complicate the process for data producers and distributors (which may or may not be the same). The plan also calls for recreating the TIGER (census) files in a form that will be easier to use and maintain.

Recognizing that a great deal of cooperation will be required from everyone involved, the FGDC asked participants in its meeting to share their opinions regarding the chance of success. Mr. Irish responded that getting the cooperation needed might be very difficult. Rita Walton's outlook was more optimistic.

Some Board members echoed Mr. Irish's concern about achieving the level of cooperation needed. Others asked how non-standard data would be handled, whether the possibility of pilot projects and the concept of data stewards were discussed, and whether it would be beneficial to have AGIC's Administrative and Legal subcommittee put together a funding proposal. Mr. Irish said that no clear answers were provided with respect to non-standard data and data stewards but that pilot projects would probably be initiated as soon as the framework was in place. Given that states may have to compete for funds, he also confirmed that it would be a very good idea to investigate funding options. Paul Notah, of the Navajo Nation, was concerned about allowing public access to sensitive data, but Mr. Irish said he did not think the provision applied to data that was classified as "confidential." Mr. Notah later recalled having read that the recommendations would not be imposed on tribal governments.

From a local government's perspective, John Poulsen, of Navajo County, commented that the data produced would need to be more like existing local data to be very useful. However, Gary Irish said that, in the FGDC



meeting, Rita Walton seemed to think that MAG member agencies might be willing to contribute and participate. He added that the proposed exclusion of private parcel data would help to keep down production costs and that some compromises, such as giving up centerlines in order to retain other features, might be worth considering.

Sally Lanier encouraged anyone interested in border issues to get involved in another cooperative effort, the regional, multiagency development project being coordinated by the Texas General Land Office under the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI).

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS - Seth Franzman said that, following release of an article in the Arizona Business Gazette entitled "Where it's at: global positioning," he received several telephone calls. His name had been listed as the contact for AGIC in an accompanying list of "global positioning players." When people called, he took advantage of the opportunity to talk a little about both AGIC and the GIS/LIS conference. Considering the amount of interest generated by the article, Mr. Franzman said he also wondered if a program for small businesses might be beneficial.

Sally Lanier indicated that the next "MAGIC" conference will probably be held in August of 1995. Planning takes a full year; so organizers will need to begin preliminary planning before the 1994 GIS/LIS conference is over. Everyone was asked to keep track of any lists or other information that might be useful in preparing for the next conference.

Seth Franzman presented a certificate to Steve Foley and welcomed him to the Board, saying he looked forward to Mr. Foley's continued participation.

CALL TO PUBLIC - Gary Irish distributed copies of a handout that was overlooked earlier in the meeting. The two-page handout contained a summary and a list of questions related to the FGDC Framework Working Group.

In response to an invitation from Seth Franzman, other members of the audience shared the following information regarding projects in which their organizations are involved. Paul Notah confirmed that the Navajo Nation is experimenting with GIS technology to monitor cattle movement and grazing patterns. He added that he might be able to

present an update at the next meeting. John Poulsen reported that GIS has finally been included in Navajo County's new budget. John Hathaway said Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is working cooperatively toward developing a data base directory of sources and contacts in the Tucson area. The effort may be expanded if the pilot projects are successful. Finally, Bill Timmins commented that a new training facility, certified by ERDAS, Inc., would be coming on line soon. He said the facility will provide training to people from Central and South America and to military personnel, among others. Contracts have already been awarded by the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force.

NEXT MEETING - Seth Franzman announced that the next Executive Management Board meeting will be held in Phoenix on Thursday, September 1. He encouraged everyone to attend and extended special thanks to those who routinely travel great distances to participate.

The July Board meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.